

**Introduced by Senator Liu**February 3, 2010

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An act to amend Section 18961.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to child abuse and neglect.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 945, as introduced, Liu. Child abuse and neglect: information: computerized database.

Existing law authorizes a county to establish a computerized data base system within the county to allow designated provider agencies, as defined, to share identifying information regarding families at risk for child abuse or neglect, for the purpose of forming multidisciplinary personnel teams.

This bill would revise the list of provider agencies authorized to share information regarding families at risk for child abuse or neglect, including adding specified courts and the Department of Justice sex offender database.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 18961.5 of the Welfare and Institutions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 18961.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, ~~any~~
- 4 ~~a~~ county may establish a computerized data base system within
- 5 ~~that the~~ county to allow provider agencies, as defined in subdivision
- 6 (h), to share identifying information, as specified in subdivision
- 7 (c), regarding families at risk for child abuse or neglect, for the

1 purpose of forming multidisciplinary personnel teams, as defined  
2 in subdivision (d) of Section 18951, for the prevention,  
3 identification, management, or treatment of child abuse *or neglect*.

4 (b) Each county shall develop its own standards for defining  
5 “at risk” before joining this system. Only information about  
6 children or the families of children at risk for child abuse or neglect  
7 may be entered into a computerized data base system established  
8 pursuant to this section.

9 (c) With regard to a case in which a child or family has been  
10 identified as at risk for child abuse or neglect under this section,  
11 only the following information shall be entered into the system:

12 (1) The name, address, telephone number, and date and place  
13 of birth of family members.

14 (2) The number assigned to the case by each provider agency.

15 (3) The name and telephone number of each employee assigned  
16 to the case from each provider agency.

17 (4) The date or dates of contact between each provider agency  
18 and a family member or family members.

19 (d) The information may only be entered into the system by, or  
20 disclosed to, provider agency employees designated by the director  
21 of each participating provider agency. Members of the  
22 multidisciplinary personnel teams shall be drawn from these  
23 designated employees, or other persons, as specified in Section  
24 18961. The heads of provider agencies shall establish a system by  
25 which unauthorized personnel cannot access the data contained in  
26 the system.

27 (e) The information obtained pursuant to this section shall be  
28 kept confidential and shall be used solely for the prevention,  
29 identification, management, or treatment of child abuse, child  
30 neglect, or both.

31 (f) This section shall not supplant any duties required by the  
32 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (Article 2.5 (commencing  
33 with Section 11164) of Chapter 2 of Title 1 of Part 3 of the Penal  
34 Code).

35 (g) ~~No~~ An employee of a provider agency ~~which~~ *that* serves  
36 children and their families shall *not* be civilly or criminally liable  
37 for furnishing or sharing information as authorized by this section.

38 (h) For the purposes of this section, “provider agency” means  
39 any governmental or other agency ~~which~~ *that* has as one of its  
40 purposes the prevention, identification, management, or treatment

1 of child abuse or neglect. The provider agencies serving children  
2 and their families—~~which~~ *that* may share information under this  
3 section shall include, but not be limited to, the following entities  
4 or service agencies:

- 5 (1) Social services.
- 6 (2) Children’s services.
- 7 (3) Health services.
- 8 (4) Mental health services.
- 9 (5) Probation, *including all child-related data*.
- 10 (6) Law enforcement.
- 11 (7) Schools.
- 12 (8) *Children’s courts.*
- 13 (9) *Juvenile courts.*
- 14 (10) *Delinquency courts.*
- 15 (11) *Dependency courts.*
- 16 (12) *Family courts.*
- 17 (13) *Department of Justice sex offender database.*